

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 IO-10 DPW-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /072 W

----- 121200

R 111016Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2849

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 1725

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, LA

SUBJECT: KILLINGS OF TWO DEPUTY PROVINCE GOVERNORS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED - THE LAST WEEK HAS WITNESSED TWO ABRUPT AND UNTIMELY DEATHS AMONG LAOS' CORPS OF DEPUTY CHAO KHOUENG (PROVINCE GOVERNORS). THE FIRST VICTIM WAS THONG-SANH S. PHABMISAY, DEPUTY CHAO KHOUENG IN THE EXILED ADMINISTRATION OF HOUAPHANH (SAM NEUA) PROVINCE. THONGSANH WAS GUNNED DOWN AT A RURAL DANCE IN NORTHERN VANG VIENG PROVINCE ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 5. POLICE HAVE TOLD THE PRESS THAT THEY HAVE NO SUSPECTS IN HAND AND ASCRIBE THE INCIDENT TO A "QUESTION D'AMOUR," OPPOSITION TO THONGSANH'S PERSONAL INTERESTS, OR PROBLEMS RELATED TO HIS OFFICIAL POSITION. THERE IS NO SUSPICION OF PATHET LAO INVOLVEMENT. A POLICEMAN WAS ALSO KILLED IN THE SHOOTING BUT HE WAS EVIDENTLY HIT BY A STRAY BULLET IN THE ATTACK AIMED AT THONGSANH. END UNCLASSIFIED

2. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: IN A MORE SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT IN CHAMPASSAK PROVINCE, SECOND DEPUTY CHAO KHOUENG LA PHABPHAYBOUN WAS KILLED IN AN APPARENT PATHET LAO AMBUSH ON MARCH 9. LA WAS TRAVELING IN A TWO-JEEP CONVOY; OTHER PROMINENT PASSENGERS
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--SUB-SECTOR COMMANDER MAJOR SITH NA CHAMPASSAK AND

PROVINCE SOCIAL WELFARE CHIEF BOUN MA--WERE UNHARMED. ONE FAR SOLDIER WAS WOUNDED. WHETHER LA WAS THE PARTICULAR TARGET OF THE ATTACK IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY. HOWEVER, IT WAS KNOWN THAT THE OFFICIALS WOULD BE TRAVELING IN THE AREA AND IT APPEARS THAT THE PATHET LAO SOLDIERS WAITED AT THE SITE FOR ONE-AND-A-HALF DAYS BEFORE THEIR TARGETS ARRIVED.

3. COMMENT: THESE TWO INCIDENTS ARE NOT CONNECTED OTHER THAN BY THE COINCIDENCE OF THE OFFICIAL POSITIONS OF THE DECEASED. THOUGH THE CAUSE OF THE FIRST INCIDENT IS UNKNOWN, IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT IT WAS A PRIVATE SETTLING OF ACCOUNTS. THE SECOND MAY BE A MANIFESTATION OF THE MORE AGGRESSIVE STANCE THE PATHET LAO SEEM TO BE TAKING LATELY IN SOUTHERN CHAMPASSAK PROVINCE AND IN THE KHONG ISLAND AREA OF SITHANDONE PROVINCE.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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